

# The Pocahontas Times.

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Marlinton, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, March 23, 1916

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## TIMES OF WOE

By ANNA L. PRICE

Such they were in Scotland, several hundred years ago when a religious war prevailed combining unjust civil conditions on the stronger and kindly side. The conflict was between Protestant churches of England and Scotland and the weaker party, they were of course at disadvantage notwithstanding the right of their cause and their own unconquerable courage and fortitude. It was the day when might often was esteemed right and rulers were despotic; then in this instance a perverted conscience, on the English side came in to make the struggle harder and the suffering of the Scottish church greater. Innumerable cases of horrible persecution to the death occurred, and disgrace after death, such as exposing the severed head on poles. It goes without saying that Scotland did not submit tamely when numbers could gather sufficiently to fight in open battle with varying success. A solemn league and covenant united the Scotch Covenanters and they clung to it "thru' thick and thin," determined to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience, they sought recesses of the forest, hillsides, caves of the earth, anywhere unobserved, and these secret holy gatherings were called "Conventions." One pathetic scene arises to memory in the record of the undying friendship of two Covenanters, viz Alexander Peden and Richard Cameron, the first an aged man, "Auld Sandy," the other stalwart, young and killed in battle upon whose grave a rude stone was engraven with open Bible and sword.

Peden visits the sacred spot. "There came a lone and weary man, To Cameron's place of rest; He casts him down upon the sod, And smites upon his breast; He weeps—as only strong men weep, When weep they must or die,— And Oh! to be w' thee, Ritchie, Was still his bitter cry!"

The Board of Education of Edray District has had many knotty problems to untangle during the past few years. One of the most difficult problems has been to provide ways and means of maintaining a high school commensurate with the need of Edray District. The prospect for a good high school were bright when the present building was erected in 1906, but these prospects have grown dimmer every year, until now the high school is practically crowded out of the present building. Every room is needed to house the grades. The seventy-six pupils in the first grade could attend only two and a half days a week instead of five full days. These pupils must be provided for next year, hence the room now used for the high school should be used by one of the grades. It is idle to talk of renting rooms. The Board of Education looked in vain for rooms last summer. It is

## HILLSBORO HIGH SCHOOL

On Friday evening March 10, the Shakespeare Literary Society gave one of the best programs of the year. The debate on the subject, Resolved that our immigration laws should be strengthened by a literary test, was well argued. The essays, readings, book reviews, interestingly rendered. The piano and vocal music gave variety to the program.

The Brownings will give a program Friday evening of this week. The subject for debate is, resolved that our State should have a mileage tax for the improvement of public roads.

Some of the boys of the Athletic Association gave a three act comedy Saturday evening March 11. "The King of Cannibal Islands," was the play was entitled, was carried out in regular South Sea Island style. All the players were appropriately costumed and colored. From the "crazy" game in act one, to the ghost tale in the close there was not a dull moment. With a little more of Mr. Gurd's capable coaching these boys would be able to adapt themselves to life in Borneo or New Guinea. Thirty-five dollars were realized which was placed to the credit of the Association.

The last game of basket ball for this season was played with Marlinton High on the evening of March 11. The score was strongly in favor of Hillsboro High.

The music teachers and pupils are at work on the Carata which will be given in the near future. This promises to be exceptionally good. Watch for further announcement of it and make preparation to attend.

New pupils enroll are Ethel Stillwell, Carl Bruffe and Dice Grimes. The first named comes to us from South Bstrn High School. The last two are seniors in our course and have just closed successful terms of school. We have ten weeks of school yet, which gives an excellent opportunity for pupils to enter who have just received the free school diplomas.

Friday March 17, both graded and high school observed "Clean up Day." The results are improved conditions in indoors and outdoors.

Equally idle to suggest building an addition to the present building. The powers that be do not approve building an addition and an addition would not be anything but a makeshift. Edray district should have the best high school in the county. Her boys and girls should receive training at least not equal but superior to that furnished by Little Levels District. It has a property valuation \$20,000 less than that of Edray. Greenbank with approximately the same valuation spends \$29,000 for high school. Should not the people of Edray District make provision for her boys and girls by assisting the erection of the projected high school?

## The High School Situation in Edray District.

A few Facts and Suggestions advanced by Principal T. M. Martin, and approved by the Board of Education, for the consideration of the Voters, Taxpayers, and School Patrons of Edray District.

### WHAT WE HAVE.

1. The enumeration of pupils in the District who are prepared for high school is 75.
2. The enrollment in the present building is 295; 275 in the grades and 20 in the High School.
3. The school house, which was built in 1906, has eight rooms and a library. The small library room is also used as a recitation room and principal's office, as well as a storage room for what apparatus and equipment the High School has.
4. When the present building was built, the population of Marlinton was about 500 and the school was distinctly a town school. Now the population of Marlinton is approximately 1500 and the number of pupils coming from the country to the High School is as large as number coming from town.
5. Only four rooms were used when the building was built. Now all the rooms are used. The auditorium was divided into two class rooms and a library five years ago.
6. The present building is needed to house the grades. The enrollment in the first grade this year was 76, necessitating half-day sessions. The second grade is crowded. The enrollment this year was forty; the room was planned for 30. The sixth grade has an enrollment of 33, while the room is large enough for 20.
7. The High School has \$150 worth of scientific apparatus and \$350 worth of books and no suitable place to put them. There are 500 books in the High School library.
8. Our High School is second place one year of preparatory work before being admitted to first class colleges. The Board of Education must pay tuition for this last year of preparatory work if a pupil goes to some other school.
9. The Board of Education decided last July to try to make the High School a first-class one. This meant that an additional teacher would have to be secured for the High School, and that more room would have to be secured for laboratory work. The Board planned to rent rooms near the school house. The plan failed because the State Supervisor of High Schools said that our High School could not be given first class rank until we had a building to house a high school.
10. There are only two high schools in the County at present. Little Levels District, with a property valuation of \$3,087,000, has maintained a first class high school for years, and has been spending twice as much for instruction per pupil in the High School as has been spent for that purpose in the Edray District High School.
11. The property valuation of Edray District is \$5,255,000. The District of Greenbank, with a

### WHAT WE OUGHT TO HAVE

1. A first class high school, which means three teachers giving all their time to high school work, a good working library, apparatus for teaching science, and a high school building.
2. A good working library for reference and supplementary work of at least 1000 volumes. These books should be used by the people of the whole district as well as by the high school pupils.
3. An adequate auditorium for entertainments, lectures, commencements, institutes and general meetings.
4. A high school that will prepare some of the boys and girls of Edray District for college, equip others for business, and train still others for teaching, farming and other vocations.
5. A high school offering the regular academic subjects such as English, history, mathematics, languages, and sciences, and in addition such immediately practical subjects as manual training, domestic science, agriculture, typewriting, and other business subjects.
6. A high school to prepare teachers for the rural schools. A common school education is no longer considered for a rural teacher. The teachers of Pocahontas County passed a resolution last September to the effect that persons presenting themselves for examination for the first time should have completed two years of high school.

lege or for some vocation, and at the same time enable them to remain at or near their homes. Pupils living at Buckeye, Onoto, Edray, and other places close to Marlinton could drive to school, while those living near the railroad in the northern part of the district could come and go on the train. The railroad company has already granted a three cent fare for the round-trip for school children. Pupils living farther from Marlinton and the railroad could come to town on Monday morning and return to their homes on Friday evening for a great part of the year.

### Reasons Why Edray District Should Build a High School Building.

1. A high school is no longer a luxury but a necessity. A common school education is no longer regarded as sufficient for any occupation requiring skill. Scientific agriculture demands more training than is given in the elementary schools, and agriculture must be the basis of prosperity in Edray District in years to come.
2. Muscles must be trained as well as mind. Hence the necessity of manual training, domestic science, typewriting, agriculture, and other activities involving the training of muscles.
3. Money put into schools is an investment that pays the highest dividends. That education makes a big return for the money invested is proved by the following facts: (a) Government statistics show that the yearly average earnings of persons who quit school in the grades are \$450; of high school graduates, \$1000. In five years the former would earn \$18,000 and the latter \$40,000, or a difference of \$22,000 in a lifetime.

## ROYAL

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test last October; Edray District High School should be not only equal to the one at Hillsboro, but should be superior to it. We have 30 per cent more people and over 70 per cent more property than Little Levels has.

5. High Schools are poor men's colleges; temples of democracy. Should not Edray District have the best one in the County?

How a District High School Building is to be Secured

1. Some have suggested building an addition to the present building. This plan is not practical. The building was not planned as a basis for a larger building. An addition would shut off the light from several of the rooms, destroy the symmetry of the building, and increase instead of diminish the congestion of the building.
2. Satisfactory rooms cannot be rented.
3. The Board of Education has decided to use the present building for the grades, and to ask the voters to authorize the erection of a district High School Building near the Temporary Court House. The site can be secured for \$3,000. Equipment and apparatus will cost \$1000 to \$1,500; and a building containing an auditorium, library, laboratory rooms for science, manual training room, domestic science room, and five or six class

rooms will cost approximately \$15,000. Provision will be made for building an addition to the proposed building to take care of future growth. The high school at Hillsboro cost \$22,000; the proposed building in Greenbank, \$25,000.

4. To build and equip a building like the one referred to above will necessitate a special levy of 20 cents on each \$100 assessed valuation for approximately 2 years.

5. The Board of Education of Edray District feels that the erection of a High School building is the only solution of the educational problem in Edray District, and each member is ready to supply any further information that may be desired.

**ADVERTISED LETTERS**  
Marlinton, March 23, 1916. — A. H. Potter, Miss Icy Sharp, Joe Painter, Dr. J. L. Kable, Harry W. Grogg, Dan Furey, G. I. Campbell.

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